Control, in the India-China Border Areas (1996) provide an institutional framework for the maintenance of peace and tranquility in the India-China border areas.

Assessment of the Impact of Clinton's Visit

4159. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFP AIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any firm assessment of the impact of President Clinton's visit to India during March this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government suspect any adverse impact of the President's visit on India's relation with the super powers especially Russia and China; and

(d) if so, what steps do Government propose to take to put India's foreign relations on correct prospective ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. President Clinton's visit to India marks an important step in the efforts of both countries to chart a new and purposeful direction in bilateral relations to realise the shared vision of establishing a broad-based, closer and qualitatively new relationship, based on equality and mutual respect. The visit has led to better mutual understanding on bilateral, regional and international issues and has laid the foundation for enhancement of mutually beneficial co-operation. As part of the vision of the new relationship outlined by Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and President Clinton, the two sides have established an architecture of regular, wide-ranging institutional dialogue. Prime, Minister and the US President will hold regular bilateral 'Summits'. They will also be regular dialogues on foreign policy and security matters at the ministerial and official levels. A strong institutional framework has also been created for dialogue on economic and commercial issues, counter-terrorism, energy and environment, science and technology.

(c) Strengthening of our ties with the United States is neither directed against any country nor is it at the expense of any of our other important relationships. Government would continue to nurture our ties with all friendly countries, including the Russian Federation and China. We will continue to pursue our independent foreign policy, guided solely by our national interests and global friendship.

(d) Does not arise.